

IN MEMORIAM

ACADEMICIAN ZLATIBOR PETROVIĆ
(1921-2009)

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Academician Zlatibor Petrović passed away on February 7, 2009 in Belgrade, thus bringing to an end the dignified and impressive life's journey of a scientist, investigator, teacher, and outstanding expert in the field of veterinary medicine. Academician Petrović was born in 1921 in Uljma, Serbia. He received his elementary and secondary education in Vršac, where he graduated from high school in 1940. That same year he enrolled at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade and remained there until April of 1941, when he became a war prisoner of the Germans. In 1949 he graduated with highest marks from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade and was immediately appointed to the post of Graduate Assistant at the same faculty. After successfully defending his doctoral dissertation, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Parasitology in 1952. He attained the rank of Associate Professor in 1959 and that of Full Professor of Parasitology in 1965. He performed the duties of Chairman of the Department of Parasitology, Vice-Dean of the Faculty, and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade. In October of 1986, he retired as Full Professor of Parasitology at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, but his colleagues left a working office at his disposal where he continued to engage in scientific activity.

Professor Dr. Zlatibor Petrović received advanced training at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, the Pasteur Institute of Parasitology in Paris, the Institute of Parasitology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, the Parasitological Institute of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and the All-Union Institute of Helminthology of



the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Moscow. In addition, he taught parasitology and post-graduate courses at the Universities of West Berlin and Hannover.

In April of 1972, Prof. Dr. Zlatibor Petrović was elected a corresponding member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), whose regular member he became in December of 1983. In 1976 he was made an honorary member of the Serbian Medical Society and its Medical Academy.

The scientific opus of Academician Petrović was impressive and included more than 225 bibliographic units (according to information available in the Yearbooks of SASA). He published works in different fields of human and veterinary parasitology in international and domestic journals and monographs with significant indexes of citation. The majority of these works were of an experimental nature, and more than half were published in prestigious foreign journals. The published works treated research in the areas of protozoology, helminthology, and arachnoentomology.

In the field of protozoology, his systematic investigations of the dissemination of intestinal protozoans in school children were especially significant. Also significant were his experimental and epidemiological investigations of kala azar, leishmaniasis, and toxoplasmosis.

In the area of helminthology, most of the published works of Academician Petrović presented results obtained in systematic investigations of intes-

tinal helminths in humans, especially school children. No less significant were his papers dealing with helminths of domestic and wild animals.

In the field of arachnoentomology, the research of Academician Petrović on arthropods represents an especially valuable contribution to science. His systematic investigations of ticks in Serbia and other republics yielded extremely important results providing a detailed knowledge of their fauna and the dynamics of their seasonal appearance, information that is of particular significance for the epidemiology of tick-borne diseases.

Within the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Academician Petrović performed numerous duties, including those of Secretary of the Division of Medical Sciences; member of the Managing Committee of the Fund for Scientific Work; member of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Protection of the Human Environment; member of the Committee on International Scientific Cooperation; member of the Committee on the History of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Pharmacy; and Chairman of the SASA Committee for Research on the Fauna of Serbia. In addition, he served as Chairman of the Division of Medical Sciences and the Inter-Academy Committee on Biological Preparations and Vaccines; member of the Inter-Academy Committee on the Development and Organization of Health Protection; and member of the Inter-Academy Committee on the Study of Streptococcal Infections of Humans and Domestic Animals.

Also within the framework of SASA, Academician Petrović supervised projects dealing with streptococcal infections, zoonoses, and study of the parasite fauna of freshwater fish.

In addition to his other activities, Academician Petrović served as a member of the editorial boards of the international journals "Folia Parasitologica" and "Helmintologia"; and the domestic journals "Acta Veterinaria", "Acta Parasitologica Iugoslavica", "Facta Universitatis", and "Acta Biologiae et Medicinae Experimentalis".

At different times in his career, Academician

Petrović was Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Institute for Medical Research; member of the Council of the University of Belgrade; Chairman of the Council of the University of Belgrade; Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade; member of the Council on Science and Technological Development of Serbia; member of the Council of the Biological Institute; member of the Council of the Institute for Medical Research (which he later chaired); member of the Council of the Institute for Application of Nuclear Energy in Agriculture; and member of the Council of the Institute of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. He also served as Chairman of the Council of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine; Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the "University Today" International Seminar in Dubrovnik; President of the Society of Parasitologists of Serbia; President of the Association of Societies of Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians of Serbia; Secretary of the European Federation of Parasitologists; Chairman of the Commission on International Cooperation of the Council of Republic and Regional Communities for Scientific Work; and Chairman of the Council of the Union of Republic and Regional Self-Governing Interest-Based Communities of the SFRJ. He was President of the Serbian Veterinary Society and President of the Academy of Veterinary Medicine of the Serbian Veterinary Society.

In the course of his fruitful career, Academician Petrović was elected an honorary member of the Society of Parasitologists of Poland, the British Society of Parasitologists, the Society of Parasitologists of Czechoslovakia, the Society of Parasitologists of Hungary, and the Society of Parasitologists of Bulgaria.

For his successful work and outstanding achievements, Academician Petrović received many domestic and foreign acknowledgments, such as the Medallion of the City of Belgrade; the Medallion of the Association of Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians; the Medallion of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine; the Medal of Honor of the Hungarian Parasitological Society; and the K. I. Skrzabin Medal, awarded to him by the Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Medical Sciences, and

the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the USSR. In addition, he was awarded the Silver Medal for Service to the Nation by order of the Presidency of the SFRJ; and the Gold Medal of Labor by order of the President of the Republic. The University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1987, and he received the Seventh of July Award in 1988. Academician

Zlatibor Petrović will be remembered in the Serbian and international scientific and technical communities for his outstanding achievements in veterinary and medical science and especially for his devoted work as a member of SASA for the development of science in Serbia.

Professor Dr. Dragan Micić